



Safe Sites of Colorado & Rocky Mountain Remediation Services

779 Closure Project

DATE September 29, 1998

TO Building 779 Closure Project Administrative Record File

FROM *MHC* M H Conlogue, Bldg 779 Environmental Technical Advisor, X6152

SUBJECT TRU MIXED CATEGORIZATION EVALUATION - UNIT #90 43 (GB 860) CLOSURE - MHC-021-98

The Building 779 Decommissioning Operations Plan, Section 9.1.2 states "For those gloveboxes that do not meet the LLM Waste categorization, an evaluation must be conducted to determine the feasibility and benefits of reducing the plutonium content by strip coating or other decontamination methods." An answer of "yes" to each of the following questions is required for a waste stream to be eligible for decontamination.

Question Does decontamination ensure that the LL waste criteria are achievable?

Answer No Due to the nature of past processes conducted in Glovebox 860, it is virtually impossible to ensure the < 100 nanocurie/gram criteria can be met by decontamination.

Question Can the decontamination process be conducted in accordance with ALARA?

Answer No Attempts to reduce holdup in gloveboxes in B779 were unsuccessful during deactivation. Both strip-coating and hand-wiping were used in an attempt to reduce the total activity. Results indicated further efforts were not advantageous. Hand wiping and removal of strip coat is labor intensive with increased chance of personal internal exposures. Internal exposures can be caused by releases of contamination through cut or fatigued gloves and during the bagout/ bag cut operations when removing strip coat or wipe towels. Based on the limited success with strip coating and wiping down gloveboxes and the increased potential for personnel exposures, these activities are not considered reasonable mechanisms to reduce TRU gloveboxes to low level waste.

Question Does the decontamination process make economic sense?

Answer No It is far more economically feasible to forego decontamination in favor of simply applying fixative and proceeding with size-reduction from a D&D standpoint. It is assumed the time (cost) taken to decontaminate compared to final disposal costs of TRU mixed as opposed to LL mixed waste is far greater.

cc
Tom Goff
Julia Hamrick
Ted Hopkins
Bill Wierzbicki
779 Project File

779 Admin Record File



ADMIN RECCRD

B779-A-000133